



Pebble Hills Regional Command News Beat

October 2010

Issue 39

Highlights:

- Commander's Perspective
1,2
- Crime Prevention Corner
3
- Help us Help You
4
- Crime Statistics
5
- Traffic Control
6,7
- Neighborhood Relations
8,9,10
- D.A.R.T. Family Services
11, 12
- Upcoming Events
13
- Dedicated to Serve
14

Commander's Perspective...

By Commander Patrick Maloney

PatrickM@elpasotexas.gov

Greetings from the Pebble Hills Regional Command! I hope all of you enjoy the Fourth Quarter Newsletter. We take the time to complete this newsletter to benefit the community by providing useful information such as crime prevention tips, crime trends, and traffic law information. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see added or changed in regards to the newsletter. We value your input.

The eastside continues to grow and expand at a very rapid pace. New businesses are opening and houses are being built on a daily basis. As a result the number of calls handled by the Pebble Hills Regional Command continues to increase. For the month of August, there were 9,980 dispatched calls in the Pebble Hills area. We do our best to respond to calls as quickly as possible, but sometimes it will take us awhile to respond to certain lower priority type calls. Calls are dispatched based on priority, with the highest priority calls being dispatched first. That being said, if you need to make a report, you have some options. While some reports must be handled by an officer in person, many non emergency type reports that don't involve evidence can be reported through alternative means. One method is to call in the report by phone at 832-4446. You can also make reports on line at https://www.elpasotexas.gov/police/online_report.asp.

We made some progress since the last quarter in regards to crime. Through September, crime in the Pebble Hills area is up 3% compared to the same period in 2009. This is a 1% improvement since the last quarter. We continue to do well in the areas of burglary of vehicles (-21%), theft of vehicles (-22%) and burglaries (-4%). For the year we have seen an increase in assaults (+12%) and thefts (+2%). The officers continue to work very hard and we are doing everything we can to bring the crime down. We are coming up on the holiday season soon and we usually see an increase in crime during that time. Just a reminder, be sure to lock your vehicle, and hide any valuables or packages so they are not visible. Car thieves and burglars look for easy opportunities. Leaving your car unlocked, or valuables in plain site, is an open invitation to criminals. When walking in parking lots, be aware of your surroundings. Park in well lighted areas and it is always a good idea to take someone with you when you go shopping. As always, if you see any suspicious activity, contact the police right away.

The Citizens' Advisory Board has a couple of events coming up during the next quarter. Pride Day is October 9th. We invite everyone to get out and help clean up the community. Please contact the Pebble Hills Regional Command if you need additional information. The Citizens' Advisory Board will also be holding their Spirit of Christmas campaign in December. The members gather and distribute presents to needy children at local schools. As always, everyone is invited to participate. The next Citizen's Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 11th at 6 PM. The meeting is open to the public.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter. Until next time, I wish everyone happy holidays.

Commander Patrick J. Maloney
Pebble Hills Regional Command
El Paso Police Department

Pebble Hills Officers of the Month

June 2010: Officer Michael Balderrama (Tactical Section)

July 2010: Officer Robert Hernandez (Tactical Section)

August 2010: Sergeant Jose L. Navarrete (Evening Shift)

**Officer
Luis Gomez
Crime Prevention**

(915) 599-5898

Fax:
(915) 599-5504

E-mail:
[Gomezlh@el-
pasotx.gov](mailto:Gomezlh@elpasotx.gov)



Crime Prevention Corner

Dear Citizens,

Please be advised of the up-coming Holiday Shopping Season which trends to increase Burglary of Vehicles and Automobile Thefts at various eastside El Paso apartment parking lots, shopping centers, and gyms. These crimes will occur during various hours. The El Paso Police Department reminds you and your family to remain alert and to practice Pro-Active Crime Prevention measures to help reduce the odds of you becoming a victim of crime.

We also request you share this information with your family, friends and co-workers.

You will be an effective Crime Stopper if you:

- Always lock your vehicle and keep your vehicle windows rolled up;
- Use an anti-theft device such as a burglar alarm or a steering wheel lock;
- Do not leave any packages, electronics, or other valuables in plain sight;
- Secure your valuables in your vehicle's trunk or in an out of sight storage;
- Park your vehicle in a secured lighted area;
- Report suspicious activity or individuals to the El Paso Police Department Non-Emergency number 832-4400 or call 911.

These Crimes are Crimes of opportunity. When you practice these tips you reduce the opportunity.

On behalf of the Officers and staff of the Pebble Hills Regional Command Center and the El Paso Police Department, we thank you for your attention and support.

Thank you,
Officer L. Gomez #1376 CPO
Pebble Hills Regional Command Center
10780 Pebble Hills El Paso, TX 79935
599-5898
1376@elpasotexas.gov

**Lt. Richard
Castellano
599-5500**

**Dayshift Shift
Supervisor**

Help us Help You....

There has been a steady increase in the number of the burglary of vehicles that are occurring in the Pebble Hills area. These occurrences are not restricted to residential areas and apartment complexes business late at night but are occurring at shopping centers as well as fitness center parking lots. There are several measures citizens can take to prevent their vehicle from being burglarized.

The factors identified were consistent on a number of the burglaries. One factor was that the vehicles were being left unlocked. This is popular with the younger car burglar where they walk a parking lot and try door handles looking for the unlocked vehicles. By properly securing your vehicle, one opportunity has been taken away from these subjects. This is by far the easiest way to prevent you from being a victim.

Another factor identified is that subjects will look for valuables left inside of vehicles. A large number of burglary cases involve the theft of purses left inside the vehicle. This trend is evident at commercial businesses and apartment complexes. Even if there is nothing of value in the purse, the subject does not know this. Subjects will make entry into your vehicle and take the purse. Even if nothing of value was inside the purse, you are still left with the cost of repairing the damage done by the subjects.

Other items of value taken in recent burglaries include car stereos, cell phones, iPods and GPS devices. If these items are important to you, do your best to conceal and secure your property. It is easy to become complacent and not concerned with security because you have parked in the same place everyday for the past year and nothing has happened. Remember, it takes just one time and your valuables are gone.

Another step you could take to reduce your chance of becoming a victim would be to park your vehicle in a well-lit area or a high traffic area. Some homeowners use motion sensor lighting or high intensity lighting to deter any prowler activity. The only thing between your property and the criminal is a piece of glass so when you secure your vehicle for the night, take the added time to check inside your vehicle to insure there are no valuable visible. This also holds true when parking in a commercial lot. After you lock your vehicle, take the time to look inside your vehicle to identify any property that needs to be hidden or secured in the trunk of your car. By taking these added little steps you can protect your vehicle from being burglarized.

Lt. R. Castellano

Pebble_Hills Crime Statistics

Burglary of
Hab (49)

Burglary of
Vehicle (44)

Vehicle Theft (25)

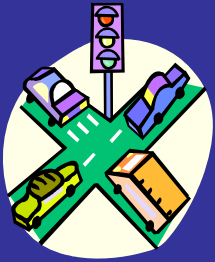
Crime Analyst
Isaac Mendez
599-5720

September 2010



**Sgt. Andy
Cintron
599-5511**

**P.H.R.C.C
Traffic
Supervisor**



Traffic Control

Hello, I hope that everyone is doing well, and staying safe on our roadways. As stated in my previous article, Officer Bobby Holguin has come out of retirement and rejoined our unit. Officer Holguin has been back for about two months and has been working the rust out. Although I must admit that he has re-acclimated himself quite well. A huge welcome, and thanks to Officer Holguin for his hard work over this short period.

For this article I am going to focus on pedestrians and bicyclists in, on, or near our City's roadways. The reason for this is that 2010 has seen a large increase in accidents and fatalities involving vehicles against pedestrians and bicyclists. A good percentage of these accidents have been the fault of the pedestrian or cyclists. Below I have attached statistics for 2010 along with laws that pertain to pedestrians and cyclists in the roadway. I ask that you please share this with your loved ones, your co-workers, and everyone possible in an effort to put a stop to these types of accidents. I would also ask that when out walking or bicycling that you respect the road as if you were driving, and that you wear reflective clothing so that drivers could see you quicker.

We have had one bicyclist fatality during 2010, and have had 48 collisions involving bicyclists. The statistics for pedestrians is more serious as we just suffered the city's 15th pedestrian fatality of 2010 compared to 3 for this same time period in 2009.

Pedestrians

1. Pedestrians are required to use a sidewalk if provided and accessible. When sidewalks are not available, the pedestrian will walk on the left side of the roadway or on the shoulder facing traffic. 552.006
2. Operators of motor vehicles must yield ROW (Right Of Way) to pedestrians while emerging from or entering an alley, building, or private road or driveway if the pedestrian is approaching on a sidewalk extending across the alley, building entrance or exit, road, or driveway. 552.006
3. The operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear of a vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross a roadway may not pass the stopped vehicle. 552.006
4. Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles if crossing at locations other than crosswalks. 552.005
5. MV must yield ROW to pedestrians legally in a crosswalk when making left or right turns.

Certain applicable jaywalking/pedestrian violation charges:

Pedestrian Walking on Roadway	Code 000065	fine \$106.00
Pedestrian Walking against Cont Signal	Code 000075	fine \$81.00
Jaywalking	Code 000020	fine \$65.00
Skateboard Ride on Roadway	Code 000116	fine \$121.00

Bicyclists

1. The most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning left in the face of oncoming bicycle traffic.
2. The second most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist turning right across the path of the bicycle traffic
3. The third most common motorist caused car-bicycle collision is a motorist pulling away from a stop sign, failing to yield right-of-way to bicycle cross traffic.

Couple of points to remember:

1. A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle, unless a right or duty applicable to a driver operating a vehicle cannot by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle. This would prohibit wrong-way riding, disobeying traffic control device or sign
2. As a legally recognized vehicle, bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as any other operator and therefore most laws targeting unsafe driving can be used to protect bicyclists.
3. MV must pass bicyclists to the left at a safe distance and not move back until safely cleared of the bicyclists. 545.053
4. All ROW laws equally apply to both the MV and bicyclists. 545.151, 545.152
5. A MV operator can be charged with reckless driving if the operator drives in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of others. 545.401.
6. On any road with more than one lane of traffic going in the same direction, cyclists may ride two-abreast, as long as they don't "impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic". Otherwise, they're expected to ride single-file. Persons may not ride more than two abreast unless they are riding on a part of a roadway set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles. 551.103
7. A bicyclist can not make passage of traffic "unreasonably inconvenient". Sec. 42.03
8. A person may not operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle is equipped with a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle and on the rear of the bicycle a red reflector or a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle. 551.104
9. A bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway does not have to ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway if the roadway is less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side a condition on or of the roadway, prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway due to safety hazards.
10. A MV turning left at an intersection or into an alley or private road or driveway must yield the right-of-way to a bicyclist that is approaching from the opposite direction and that is in the intersection or in such proximity to the intersection as to be an immediate hazard. 545.152

Well that is it for now. As always please take care of yourselves, and obey our traffic laws.

Sgt. Andy Cintron

599-5511

Neighborhood Relations

- Welcome to the fourth quarter 2010 Newsletter. The PHRCC Special Operations Section continues to remain active with a number of projects directed to increase the public's safety and pro-active interest in their respective neighborhood.

The up-coming Holiday Season will create a surge of requests for "giving to a needy cause." Please read and refer to this information accordingly.

The following information is provided courtesy of the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Charities & Nonprofits:

Giving to Charities

You may get a letter or a phone call. You see starving kids on television, or someone knocks on your door. The needs are pressing, and their stories are convincing. You reach for your checkbook, wallet, or credit card. STOP! First, sit down, take a deep breath, and think about what you're doing. Give wisely.

A savvy consumer knows how to ask the right questions and do a little homework. The same precautions are essential before making donations. The following are some good questions to ask before you give:

Who wants your money? If you are unfamiliar with the charity, get its full name, address, and telephone number. Many organizations have names that are very similar to well known charities. Ask whether the organization is listed as a tax exempt public charity by the IRS and if your donation will be tax deductible.

How will they use your donation? A dramatic, heart-rending description of general need may get your attention, but you should know more before you give. Find out the substance of the appeal and the planned use of your money. For example, are the organization's main goals education and research, or service and distribution?

If the organization's goal is public education, ask about their program in detail. Some direct mail educational campaigns achieve very good results and may be an appropriate use of your money. Be aware, however, that some organizations print a few facts in the fundraising literature they mail to you and call the "mailing and printing expenses" costs of public education.

What percentage goes toward true charitable purposes? Ask for written information that shows you a comparison of how much money the organization spends on administrative fees, fundraising and expenses versus how much it spends directly on the intended recipients or projects of the charity. You may want to compare the administrative costs, fees and expenses for several charities before deciding which charities to support.

Watch Out for These Red Flags

High Pressure Phone Calls: A legitimate charity will be glad to give you the time needed to check it out.

Prizes: Most honest charities do not try to entice you to give by telling you that you have won a prize when you haven't even entered a contest.

Avoidance of the U.S. Mail: Dishonest individuals usually try to avoid doing any business through the U.S. mail to avoid federal prosecution under postal statutes. Instead, they will insist on using a private courier service or picking up your check themselves.

What to Keep in Mind When Giving:

- Get information in writing from the charity before giving, including an annual report or other financial information.
- Do not give your credit card number out over the phone in response to a phone solicitation.
- Do not respond to letters that say you have pledged money unless you are certain that you did.
- Do not give cash. Write a check in the name of the charity, or if you are giving other property, ask for a receipt.
- Consult an attorney before making a significant gift, whether making such a gift outright, by will or by trust.



- PHRCC- the Special Operations Section is currently offering monthly H.E.A.T. Drives at various Eastside business locations. H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) is a statewide vehicle registration program administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the El Paso Police Department that helps law enforcement officials identify Stolen Vehicles. The H.E.A.T. registration requires a valid U.S. driver license and proof of insurance. The events are free to the public. For more information, please call 599-5512.
- PHRCC Citizen's Advisory Board Meeting (CAB) - You are invited to attend this meeting on the second Monday of each month in the PHRCC Community Meeting Room from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Insightful and pro-active Crime Prevention Information is always on the agenda. For more information, please call 599-5512.



- Neighborhood Watch Programs - the NW Program is a corner stone Community Policing approach to Crime Prevention, personal security, and improving the quality of life for the citizens of El Paso, TX. NW Program benefits include: preventing crime and reducing fear, bonding block residents, improving citizen and police pro-active initiatives.

- The PHRCC Special Operations Section invites you and your neighbors to start or join a Neighborhood Watch Program. For more NWP information, call Crime Prevention Officer L. Gomez at 599-5898.
- The PHRCC has an active Police Explorers Chapter that provides valuable Law Enforcement information and civic contribution experiences to young citizens 14 to 20 years of age. For more information, call Community Service Officer V. Macias at 599-5515.
- PHRCC PAR (Police Area Representative) Officer K. Chew at 599-5602 and PAR Officer M. Canales at 599-5557 are available to answer neighborhood questions or concerns.



HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ➤ Pebble Hills Regional Command Center | 599-5500 |
| ➤ Stash- House Task Force | 629-8600 |
| ➤ Crime Stoppers | 566-8477 |
| ➤ Non-Emergency El Paso Police | 832-4400 |
| ➤ Animal Regulation | 842-1001 |
| ➤ City Ordinances | 774-4500 |
| ➤ Traffic Ticket Information | 546-2901 |
| ➤ Graffiti Removal | 621-6789 |
| ➤ Volunteer Program | 564-7349 |

**D.A.R.T. &
Victims
Services**

**Christine
Rosales**
Case
Manager
599-5675



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Save the dates and make plans to join area agencies, as we show our support for Domestic Violence Awareness.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigil
Friday, October 1, 2010 at sunset (6:51pm)
Crime Victims' Memorial Reading Garden
610 Yarbrough Drive (Next to Judge Edward Marquez Library & Yucca Park)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month County Proclamation
Monday, October 4, 2010 at 9:30 am
El Paso County Commissioners' Court
500 East San Antonio Street 3rd floor (Courthouse)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month City Resolution
Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 9:00 am
El Paso City Council
2 Civic Center Plaza 2nd floor (City Hall)

5th Annual Victim's Walk Across El Paso
Sunday, October 10, 2010

We are very excited to announce that it is that time again for our 5th Annual Victim's Walk across El Paso. I hope that everyone can join us for this event. The core walkers will still be walking 20 miles; however, we will only have one stop before our final destination. We are asking all the agencies and everyone else who wants to join us to be at the Tigua Shopping Center located at 500 N. Carolina at 10:30 on October 10th so that we can walk together to our final destination which is the Crime Victim's Memorial Park located at 610 N. Yarbrough.

Once we arrive at the Park, there will be a Press Conference/Rally and food will be provided. After the Press Conference/Rally we will have a bus take all the core walkers back to the starting point of our walk. Please RSVP to Patricia Baca at the District Attorney's Office if you wish to attend the rally (see below). We want to ensure we have plenty of food for everyone.

If you would like to walk the entire 20 miles you will need to register this year. You may register at <http://epcounty.com/da/hhh.htm> . Once you register

3rd Annual Crimes against the Elderly and Legal Day
Thursday, October 14, 2010
El Paso Community College Viscount Facility
9050 Viscount

FREE admission with a donation to our Silver Room
Learn about financial exploitation, identity theft, abuse/neglect and hoarding
Sponsored by Adult Protective Services and the El Paso County Attorney's Office
Register by contacting Mari Lopez at 834-5775 or e-mail
Marisela.Lopez@dfps.state.tx.us

Help, Hope, Healing Conference
Saturday, October 23, 2010 8:00 am - 2:45 pm
Region 19 Headstart Multi Purpose Center
11670 Chito Samaniego
Admission is free, breakfast will be provided, and day care will be available.

12th Annual Crimes against Children Conference
Tuesday, November 2 and Wednesday, November 3, 2010
El Paso Community College Viscount Facility
9050 Viscount
\$75 registration (for both days)
Further information:
Call Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso
915-545-5400
915-545-5414 (Fax)

For further information on upcoming events please contact the Victim Services Unit at area regional command centers.

Westside Regional Command	585-6125
Northeast Regional Command	759-2046
Central Regional Command	577-5222
Pebble Hills Regional Command	599-5675
Mission Valley Regional Command	872-3614

Citizens' Advisory Board Meetings:

PHRCC Citizen's Advisory Board Meeting (CAB) - You are invited to attend this meeting on the second Monday of each month in the PHRCC Community Meeting Room from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Insightful and pro-active Crime Prevention Information is always on the agenda. For more information, please contact Gabriel Sida at 599-5512.

October 11, 2010
November 08, 2010
December 13, 2010



**Pebble Hills
Regional
Command
10780-A
Pebble Hills Dr.
El Paso, Texas
79935**

**General
Information:
(915) 599-5500**

**Fax:
(915)
599-5504**

**Detective's
Section:
(915)
599-5700**

**Traffic Ticket
Information:
(915)
599-5546**

**Records
Section:
(915)
599-5501**

El Paso Police Department

“Dedicated to Serve”

The El Paso Police Department's [Mission Statement](#) outlines the importance of community policing efforts. The ever-changing job of law enforcement, especially on the local level, is only fulfilled when its philosophy and efforts are reflective of the community it serves. Community policing is more than just a philosophy, it is a cooperative relationship and attitude toward problem solving and investing in the community's present and future. Community policing efforts affect all aspects of a police officer's daily duties. The focus is on the community, working with concerned and responsible citizens in an effort to improve the quality of life in the City of El Paso.